

REMARKS

Claims 10, 12-16, 18-22 and 24 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 16, 18-22 and 24 are rejected. Claims 10, 13, 16 and 21 are amended. Claims 10, 12-16, 18-22 and 24 remain.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. 35 U.S.C. §101

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 16, 18-22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant has amended paragraph [0024] on page 7 of the specification to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection for claims 16, 18-22 and 24 is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 10, 13, 16 and 21 are objected to for various informalities. Applicant has amended claims 10, 13, 16 and 21 to overcome the claim objections.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the informal claim objections for claims 16, 18-22 and 24 is respectfully requested.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims that are objected to would be allowable if amended to overcome the informal objections. Applicant has amended claims 10, 13, 16 and 21 to overcome the informal objections.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 10, 12-16, 18-22 and 24, as they now stand, are allowable for the reasons given above.

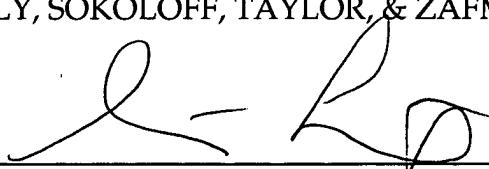
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 10, 12-16, 18-22 and 24 patentably define the subject invention over the cited references of record, and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be useful in moving the case forward, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (310) 207-3800.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

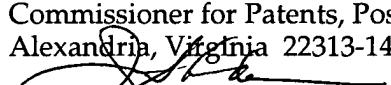
By: 
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on January 5, 2006.


Jean Svoboda